

TYPICAL NEGRO ACTOR.

What Comedian Ben Hunn Has Done for the Elevation of Negroes in the Theatrical Profession Ranks With the Best

A performer who has been making the people of America "laugh and grow fat" for twenty years, is Mr. Ben Hunn. He belongs, however, to the younger class of comedians, who were wise enough to enter the door of popular favor opened so auspiciously in the long ago by such artists as Sam Lucas, Billy Kersands and Tom McIntosh, improving and modernizing the features introduced by those pioneers of the "fun world." Mr. Hunn is both the forerunner and contemporary of the kings of comedy of this generation, ranking side by side with Ernest Hogan, Billy McClain, Irving Jones, Williams and Walker and Cole and Johnson. He has



Ben Hunn, Comedian

been particularly strenuous in urging his fellow-players to equip themselves mentally and to keep up artistically with the very best of the Caucasians, in order to establish a high reputation for themselves, for the race and for the profession generally.

Mr. Hunn is a native of Kansas, and was born in 1865. He went upon the stage in 1882, opening with the original Richards and Pringle's Minstrels. Since then alone or with his well-known brother Charles, he has filled engagements with A. D. Sawyer's Minstrels, Whalen and Martell, Sam T. Jack, Primrose and West, McCabe and Young, Hicks and Kersands. He has been the star of Hunn Brothers' Minstrels and has played frequently through the Kohl and Castle Circuit.

He is now filling a successful engagement at Tampa, Fla., at the Buckingham Theater, owned and operated by one of the shrewdest managers and best-hearted gentlemen in the theatrical business, Mr. Pat Chappelle. Mr. Chappelle is an Afro-American who is doing wonders for the colored performers, and Mr. Hunn is loud in his urgency that his duplicate may be created in many parts of the country.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

(Continued from 1st page.)

to the steamboats of Virginia. It is said the company will fight the law until the case reaches the United States Supreme Court, if necessary, to test its constitutionality.

The separate system is not a paying investment and the company objects to a restriction that causes monetary loss. The Negro's rights are thus bound up in the white man's self-interests. It should be seen that no white business enterprise is allowed to make discrimination profitable.

THE SPIRIT OF DIANE.

(Continued from 1st page.)

was always able to conceal more than he revealed in any conversation with a foreigner. He was a shrewd, cunning, calculating personage, who believed in using the sword of the Lord of Gideon on his enemies, or in sending them to kingdom come at the point of the bayonet. He was a remarkable man in many ways and he never broke a prom-

ise to friend or foe. His memory was excellent and he used it to good purpose, though he could conveniently forget disagreeable things, when he was so minded. The picture given answers the description of General Hyppolite, sometime President of Haiti. Diane is a strong story, and full justice cannot be done to it by a review which must be limited in a newspaper. It is sufficient to say that no better story has appeared in any of the current magazines, and that those who will take the trouble to read it will be repaid and will derive not a little pleasure and profit in doing so. I commend it most heartily to all lovers of literature. It is perhaps the most ambitious effort ever made by a



Mr. John E. Bruce.

man of color in the realm of fiction, though it is clearly manifest to students of contemporaneous history that a great deal of this story is founded upon facts which come within the range of vision of the writer. The characters he has created are all of them fictitious, but the story he has woven about them is not altogether so.

Diane will not suffer by comparison with novels of kindred character and Mr. Durham has placed his readers under obligations to him by his masterly and skillful treatment of a subject which has added so much to the sum of human knowledge concerning the Haitian on his native heath, as seen through the spectacles of his Afro-American half-brother. If you have not read Diane by all means order at once of your newsdealer, or from the publishers.

BRUCE GRIT.

What They Say Of Us

TALKING GOOD SENSE.

The editorial in THE COLORED AMERICAN of Washington, D. C., under the caption of "Appeals to Race Prejudices" was copied in full by Editor Bryson in the daily press in the issue of the 13th inst., commending in the highest terms its logic and good sense. It was certainly one of the most sensible editorials that it has been our good fortune to read. It ought to have been reproduced in many of the colored papers.—Louisiana, Mo., correspondent of Omaha Enterprise.

HAVING FUN AT OUR EXPENSE.

THE COLORED AMERICAN is one of the 30,000,000 of the colored people of the First Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C. Here he found a discouraged and much-scattered people. Bringing them together in harmony and good fellowship, in his first year, 1901, he raised over \$3,000, the greater part of which was put into the erection of a church building. This he hopes to complete by next winter, the total cost footing up to \$7,000 or \$8,000. Through his efforts earnestly co-operating with other divines, spiritual life in the western section of North Carolina has been immeasurably quickened, and actuated to a zealous, aggressive and uplifting work, unprecedented by the Baptist denomination of the locality.

A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION.

Rev. L. G. Jordan, secretary of the Baptist Foreign Mission Board, whose admirable labors for the race are yielding rich fruit, writes a letter full of encouragement. Among other things he says:

My Dear Brother:—We have just read your latest issue with great interest and noted especially what you ably said, touching the "Texas Steer." It is to be

hoped that the future Negro will get out of turning his guns on his fellow helper instead of those who seek to annihilate us. It seems the effort of the other people, the world over is, to keep the Negro at war with himself; and we have done that so long that many of us are out of our elements at anything else. * * * Sorry to learn through your columns that you had a fall on the ice. I hope you are still as sober and steady as when I knew you in Indianapolis, for you have, indeed been a source of inspiration to the Negro journals in this and other countries.

Charleston, W. Va., March 14, 1902.

EDITOR COLORED AMERICAN:

Your paper is the sweetest scented rose that has bloomed in the garden of journalism during the past and present century. Hope you will keep it up. Your critics may mourn, howl and bark but they disturb you less than the whisper of winds stir the leaves of the protesting forests and the murmur of waves that break on the complaining shores. Must stop for I find myself uncorking the rusty-hooped barrels of "hot-air."

The Negroes of brain are with you.

Faithfully yours,

PHIL WATERS.

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Mr. and Mrs. HARRY BURNSIDE.

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Send your name and address to Dr. I. W. Haines, 3140 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, and he will mail you a free package of Golden Specific in a plain wrapper accompanied by full directions how to use it. Enough of the remedy is sent in each free package to give you an opportunity to witness its marvelous effect on those who are slaves to drink.

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